

## REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner has taken the position that restriction to one of the following groups of claims is required under 35 U.S.C. 121. The Examiner placed the claims into the following groups:

Group I: Claims 1-10 and 31-50, drawn to an access instrument, classified in class 606, subclass 1.

Group II: Claims 11-30, drawn to an epicardial lead access instrument, classified in class 604, subclass 46.

In response to the restriction requirement under 35 U.S.C. 121, claims 1-10 and 31-50 are elected without traverse.

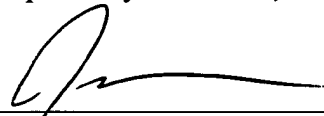
If the Examiner comes to believe that a telephone conversation may be useful in addressing any remaining open issues in this case, the Examiner is urged to contact the undersigned agent at 763-391-9867.

Please charge any required fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2546.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/16/06

By



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